



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012 – (213) 974-1465

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Mr. James Cragin
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore
Mr. Michael A. Russell

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **AUGUST 18, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Montano at 10:05 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL

Present:

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
John Hammargren
Carl Moore
Michael Russell

Absent

James Cragin

Others Present

Lt. John Domen, Sheriff's Dept.
Lt. Linda Arthur-Parra, Sheriff's Dept.
Lydia Fernandez, Probation Dept.
B. Eugene Romig, Executive Office
Dedie Ward, Commission Services
Sherry Scates, Commission Staff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2004

Due to time constraints, this item was held for the September 8, 2004, agenda.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano reported the details of the funeral arrangements for Captain Michael L. Sparkes, Commanding Officer of Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, who was killed in the line of duty on August 10, 2004. Commissioners agreed to adjourn the meeting in memory and honor of Captain Sparkes. Staff was

asked to send a letter of condolence to his family and Chief Margaret York, Los Angeles County Office of Public Safety.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that with the expenditure of the \$120 to sponsor 4 young people at the Los Angeles County Probation Department Detention Services Bureau's "A Magical Summer Night" Prom on August 13th the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$930.41.

STAFF REPORT

Due to time constraints, this item was held for the September 8th agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Montano noted that several Audit Reports were received from DCFS and would be available for the Commissioner's review.

Vice Chair Stathatos shared a recent News and World Report article regarding violence within the California Youth Authority system and an L.A. Times editorial regarding an experimental DCFS program which successfully links troubled foster care youth to art therapists. Copies on file.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON FACILITY OPERATIONS AND RESPONSE TO COMMISSION'S REQUEST TO REVIEW AND SUGGEST POSSIBLE CHANGES TO INSPECTION FORMS

- **Sheriff's Department:** Lt. Linda Arthur-Parra thanked the Commission for their kind words to Sheriff Baca on her behalf at last month's meeting. Lt. Arthur-Parra noted that she discussed with the Custody, Court Services and Patrol departments the Commission's request that they review and offer comments on the Commission's inspection forms. She distributed copies of the departments' suggested changes/additions to those forms, which was followed by a brief discussion. Commissioners will review same and comment at the next Commission meeting. Lt. Arthur-Parra also distributed copies of Captain Kenneth Masse's Corrective Action Report for the Central

Arraignment Court, which was in response to the Commission's latest inspection of that facility.

- **Probation Department:** Lydia Fernandez, Probation Ombudsman, reported on the following:
 1. She gave a brief update on the difficulties at Journey House, which were reported by the Commission and will continue to keep the Commissioners informed.
 2. She requested that when Commissioners find a juvenile that is about to be released from the group home system and has no place to go, Commissioners can refer that person to her so that she can get help for them. Commissioners requested that Ms. Fernandez follow-up on one such youth at the Cleo's Group Home.
 3. Commissioners requested that she continue to follow up on the use of pepper spray in lock ups and report back.
- **Dept. of Children and Family Services:** As no representative from DCFS has attended the Commission's business meetings since the beginning of the year, staff was asked to follow-up with Dr. David Sanders of DCFS to see if a new liaison to the Commission was appointed to replace Dr. Robert Rogers.

DISCUSSION WITH LT. JOHN DOMEN, COURT SERVICES, SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Lt. John Domen, Court Services, Sheriff's Department, discussed Captain Masse's report and addressed the corrective actions being taken to remedy issues raised by the Commission during their recent inspection of the Central Arraignment Court. Lt. Domen gave an in-depth comprehensive report on the safety and security difficulties faced by the County Courts and the Court Services Division as a result of budget cuts. He noted that the budget for Los Angeles County Courts was cut by \$22 million dollars, which resulted in the closure of courts and the elimination of weapons screening entrances at some of the remaining courts. Another cost saving measure was the replacement of uniformed Deputy Sheriff personnel with court attendants and private security personnel. He also noted that unfortunately, security at the courts will continue to diminish as the state budgets continue to be cut. Lt. Domen offered to forward a list of Field Operations Regions to facilitate the Commission's Court and jail inspection reporting procedures. Lt. Domen and Ms. Fernandez, Probation Ombudsman will review their respective department's suicide preventions kits for uniformity.

DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION GOALS

Vice Chair Stathatos reminded Commissioners to think about possible Commission goals over the hiatus and submit their suggestions for discussion at the September 8th meeting.

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

Caring for Children & Families with AIDS – 9 #3

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on August 13th and gave a rating of **excellent** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

Caring for Children & Families with AIDS – 10#1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on August 13th and gave a rating of **excellent** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

Cleo's Group Home – 18 #2

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on August 16th and gave a rating of **excellent** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

Children's Homes of Southern California – 17 #3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on August 3rd and gave a rating of **satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

Aviva Center – 4 #3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on August 16th and gave a rating of **satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported. Commissioners noted that this facility added/enhanced its mental health program for the benefit of the residents.

Castlewood Foundation 10 #3

Commissioners Bacio, Moore and Russell visited this facility on August 12th and found that the property had been sold and is now a private residence.

Little People's World – 64 #1

Commissioners Bacio and Russell visited this facility on August 12th and gave a rating of **satisfactory**. Areas of concern: a young resident named Kameron was quite depressed; resident staff advised that he was scheduled to see a

therapist the next week and that his medication would be changed.
Commission staff was asked to follow-up on Kameron.

Masada/Havelock House – 19 #2

Commissioners Moore, Bacio and Russell visited this facility on August 17th and gave a rating of **satisfactory**. Areas of concern: carpet in front bedroom needs cleaning; upper bedrooms have large amount of debris; resident staff was advised to remove the lock on the first aid kit and fill the holes in the back yard. Commissioner Moore will contact resident staff to suggest a coded key system be adopted for the facility.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Montano stated that the Commissioners were in agreement that she should contact the Executive Officer to request that Sherry Scates be assigned as the Commission's staff. Chair Montano asked Ms. Scates to order Sybil Brand Commission business cards for herself.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To Be Presented and Placed On a Future Meeting Agenda)

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m. in honor and memory of Michael L. Sparkes, Commanding Officer of Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, who was killed in the line of duty on August 10, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Scates
Staff, Commission Services